



490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

April 6, 2020

## Scoping Notice

Re: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks land proposal

Dear Interested Party:

### **Proposed Project Description**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will be preparing an Environmental Analysis on a proposal to acquire a conservation easement on approximately 7,274 acres of productive timberland in Flathead County, Montana (see attached map). The project lands are south of, and immediately adjacent to, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge and were recently purchased from Weyerhaeuser by Southern Pine Plantations Montana, LLC (SPP). SPP plans to manage this property in a manner similar to Weyerhaeuser. The proposed CE would allow SPP to continue sustainable forest management, preclude development, sustain wood-product jobs, protect valuable wildlife habitat and a key migratory corridor, and provide permanent, year-round public access to popular recreation lands. This project would protect the north slope of Dredger Ridge, a favorite walk-in elk hunting area. The property also supports grizzly bear and Canada lynx. The US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program and Habitat Montana would be the funding sources if this proposal were to proceed to completion.

### **Project Objectives**

The primary objectives of this land project include:

- Preserving important wildlife habitat and migration corridor;
- Providing public recreation access; and
- Allowing the property to be sustainably managed for timber production.

### **Public Involvement and Process**

The 30-day scoping period will begin on *April 6, 2020*. Please submit either written or e-mailed comments by *May 5, 2020* to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Kris Tempel, Habitat Conservation Biologist  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
ktempel@mt.gov

Comments received during this scoping period will help FWP determine public interest, identify potential issues that would require further analysis, and may provide insight for refining the proposal or for developing and analyzing one or more alternatives. Upon completion of the scoping phase, FWP will

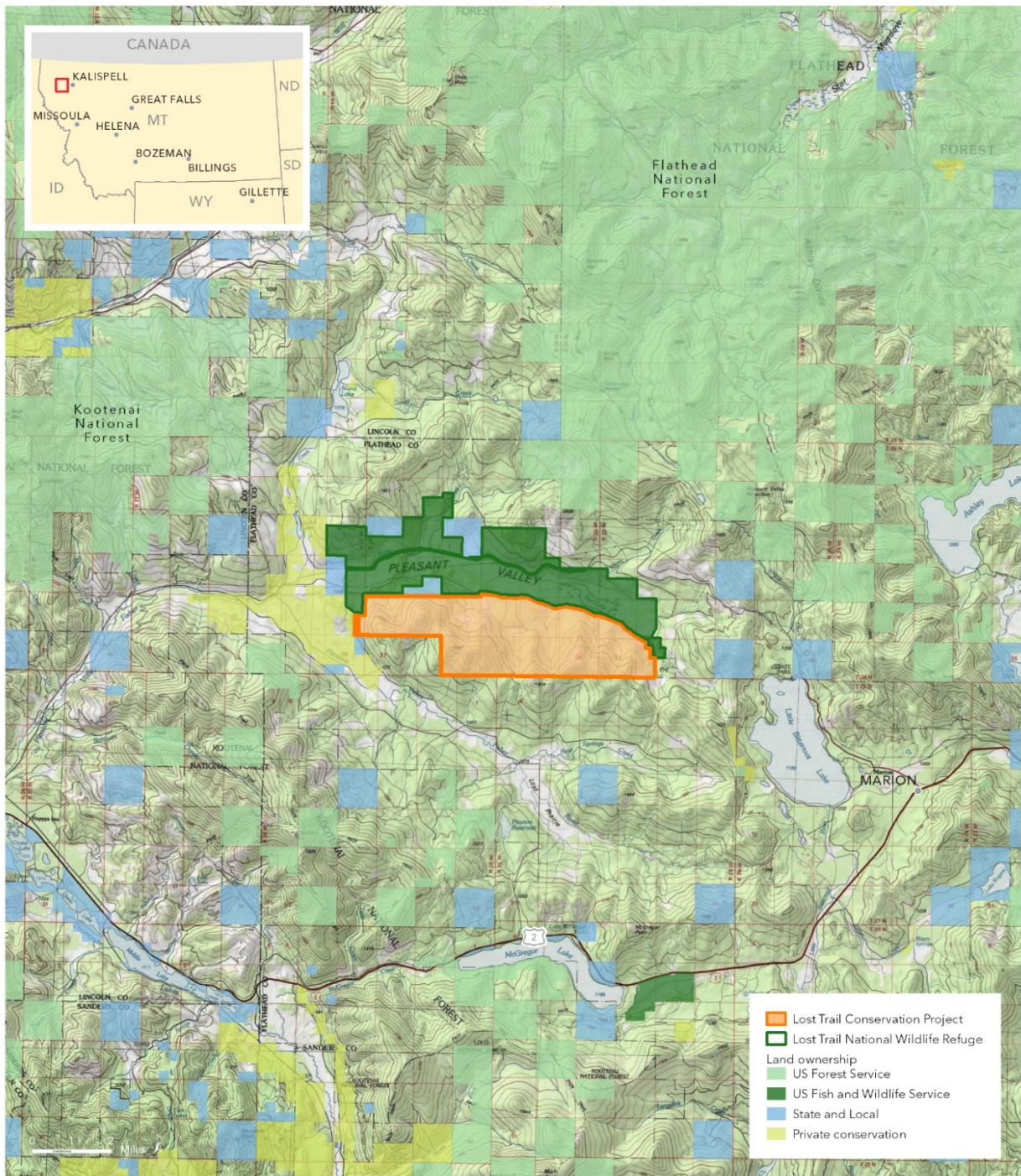
determine next steps, which may include conducting an environmental analysis with additional opportunity for public input or taking no further action on the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this project or the scoping process, please contact Kris Tempel at (406) 751-4573 or via email at [ktempel@mt.gov](mailto:ktempel@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Williams  
Region One Supervisor



# Lost Trail Conservation Project

FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

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